

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been amended. Therefore, after entry of the foregoing claim amendments, claims 1 and 3-4 remain pending and under examination. No new matter is being presented, and approval and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected as being anticipated by Ishihara (US 2002/0077079). The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. The following is a comparison between embodiment of the present invention and the cited reference.

Independent claim 1, for example, recites an operation control unit operable, when the judging unit has judged in the affirmative, to enable processing associated with operation of at least one of the first operation units by *temporarily canceling* the locking function, wherein while the locking function is being temporarily cancelled, the operation control unit (i) enables the locking function by terminating the temporal cancellation of the locking function, if a predetermined time period has elapsed since a last operation performed on at least one of the first operation units or if the case is opened, or (ii) maintains the temporal cancellation of the locking function unless the predetermined time period has elapsed since a last operation performed on at least one of the first operation units.

According to certain embodiments of the present invention, while the locking function is being temporarily cancelled, if operation is performed on at least one of the first operation units within a predetermined time period (e.g., three seconds) since a previous operation performed on at least one of the first operation units, then the temporal cancellation of the locking function will be continued without timeout (i.e., a processing associated with the latest operation will be enabled) for yet another predetermined time period starting from commencement of the latest operation. This structure makes it possible to maintain the temporal cancellation of the locking function until the user completes the necessary input. On the other hand, this structure can terminate the temporal

cancellation of the locking function if no operation is performed on at least one of the first operation units within the predetermined time period since a last operation performed on at least one of the first operation units. This structure can thus achieve the effect of preventing erroneous operations caused as a result of the user forgetting to cancel the locking function, for example.

On page 4 of the Action, the Examiner cites paragraphs [0081] and [0092] and Fig. 8, element 5, of Ishihara as disclosing the temporary cancellation of the locking function, which is recited in claim 1.

Paragraph [0081] of Ishihara and Fig. 8, element 5, of Ishihara merely discloses transition to the locked state after the user performs the dial lock setting operation (see also factor 6 in paragraph [0066]). Nothing in this cited portion of Ishihara discloses cancellation of the lock function is completed while the mobile phone is in the opened state, for example.

Paragraph [0092] of Ishihara merely suggests that a timer is started while the mobile terminal is being folded, and the dial lock is set after a predetermined time period has elapsed. This is clearly distinguishable from embodiments of the present invention in which the temporary cancellation of the lock function is maintained for a predetermined time period after the last operation, for example, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference. Independent claim 4 recites features substantially similar to those described above with respect to claim 1 and, thus, should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 3 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Ishihara in view of Hansen (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,362) and further in view of A5306ST Instructions Manual (hereinafter "Instruction Manual) The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1, and is submitted to be allowable for at least the foregoing

reasons. The secondary and tertiary references fail to cure the deficiencies of Ishihara, and are not cited as doing such.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 278542007000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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